



New York Voter Views of Transportation and Climate Issues

*Key Findings of a Survey of New York State Voters
Conducted November 19-26, 2018*



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

AMERICANVIEWPOINT®



Research Approach

- 801 interviews with likely November 2020 voters in New York State
- Conducted November 19-21 and 25-26, 2018, via landline and cell phones
- Margin of sampling error of +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence interval
- Due to rounding, some percentages do not add up to 100%
- Selected comparisons to prior research on this topic in New York state
- Bipartisan research team of FM3 Research (D) and American Viewpoint (R)



Issue Context

Intensity of concern about climate change and renewable energy has increased.

(Extremely/Very Serious Problem)

Issues	2009	2015	2016	2018	Difference 2016 to 2018
Climate change	43%	50%	48%	57%	+9%
Not using enough clean, renewable energy sources	--	--	41%	48%	+7%
Too much dependence on fossil fuel	--	--	38%	43%	+5%
Global warming	53%	57%	53%	58%	+5%
Air pollution and smog	*58%	*48%	33%	37%	+4%
The cost of electricity	--	--	38%	41%	+3%
The cost of health care	83%	75%	75%	74%	-1%
New York not doing enough to meet its potential for developing clean energy	--	--	39%	36%	-3%
Crime and drugs	--	--	57%	53%	-4%
The economy and unemployment	91%	68%	69%	40%	-29%

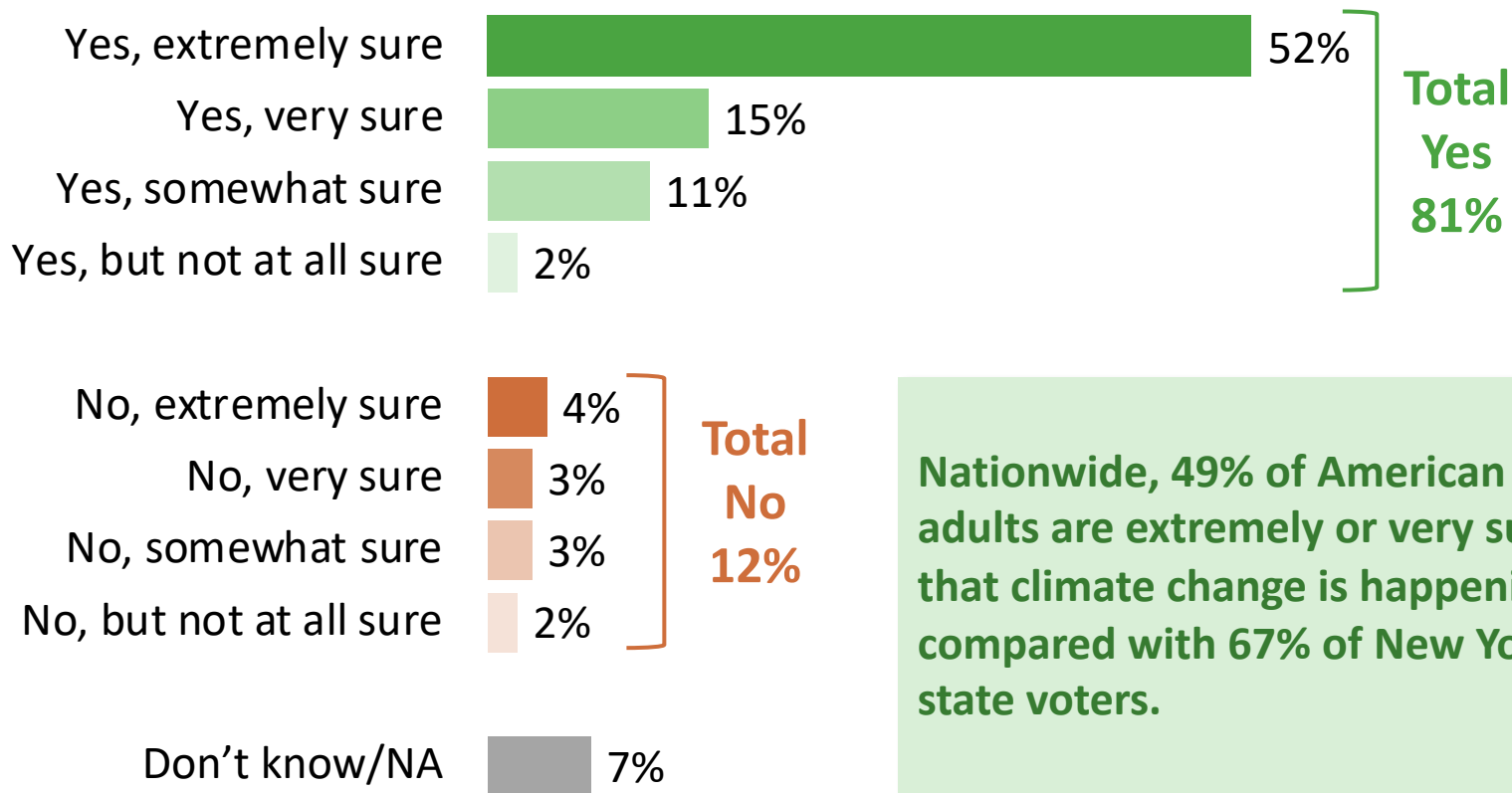
Q2. I'm going to read you a list of issues, and I'd like you to tell me how serious a problem you think each one is in your community. Please tell me whether you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a serious problem. Split Sample *Slight Difference in Wording



Views of Climate Change

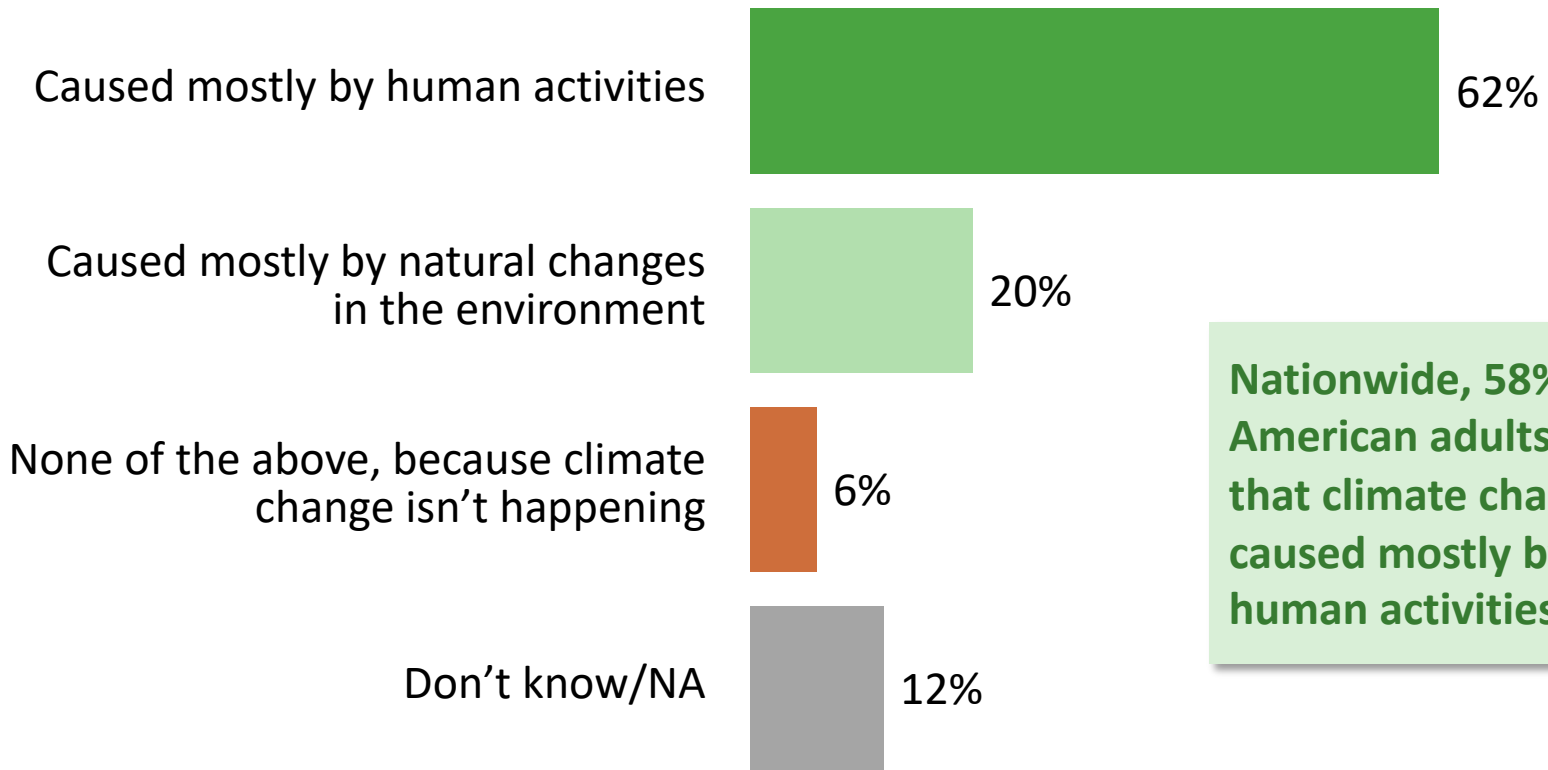
New York voters are much more likely to say they are sure climate change is happening than voters nationwide.

Do you think climate change is happening?



New York voters are about as likely as Americans overall to believe that climate change is caused by human activities.

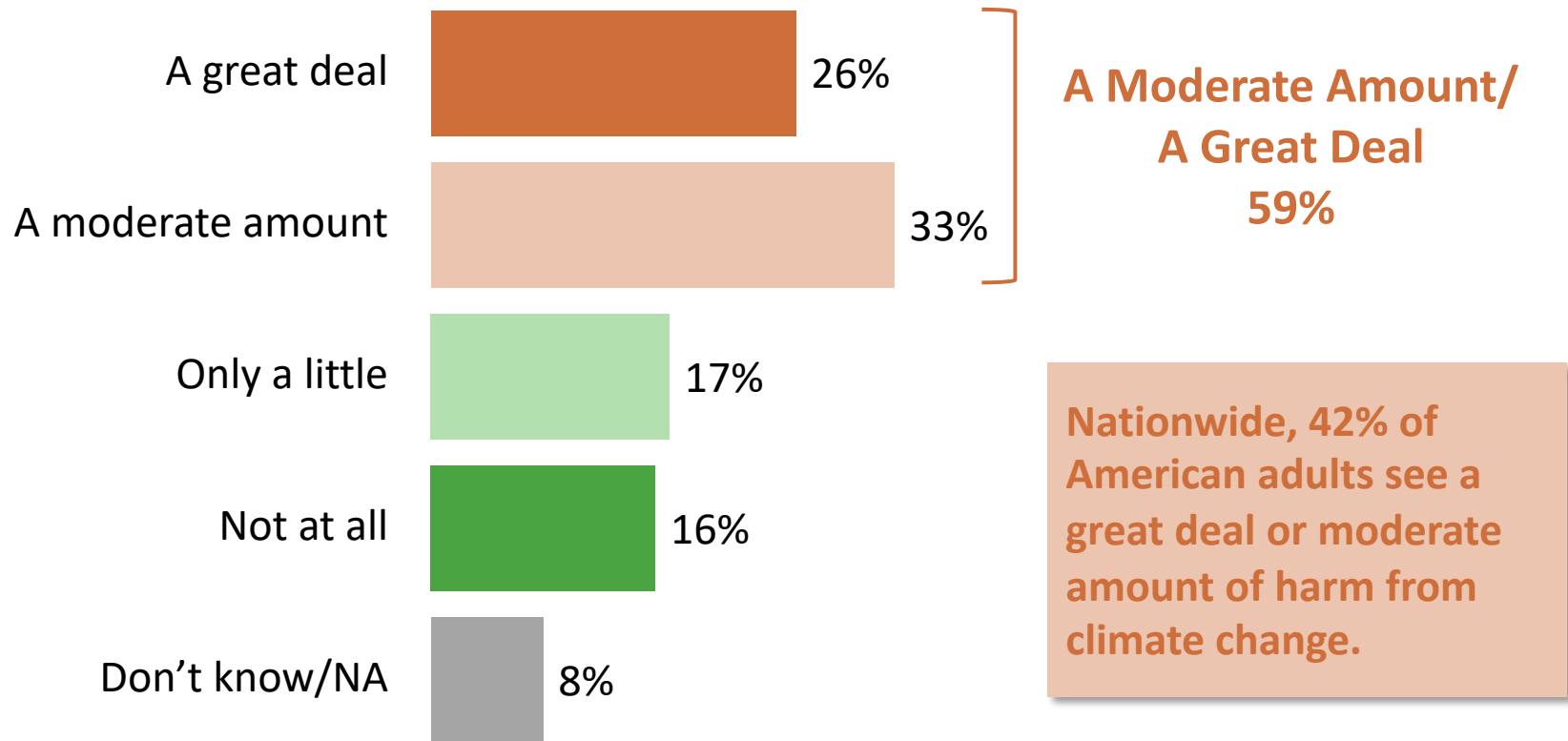
Assuming that climate change is happening, do you think it is ...



Nationwide, 58% of American adults think that climate change is caused mostly by human activities.

Only 16% of New York state voters believe they will not be harmed by climate change.

How much do you think climate change will harm you personally?





Testing Policies

- Next, we tested two potential policies: a carbon pollution fee and a clean transportation fund.
- All voters were asked about initial support for each proposal (though the order they heard them in was rotated).
- Voters then heard messaging in support of and critical of one of the two policies, with half the sample assigned to each.



Opinions of a Carbon Pollution Fee

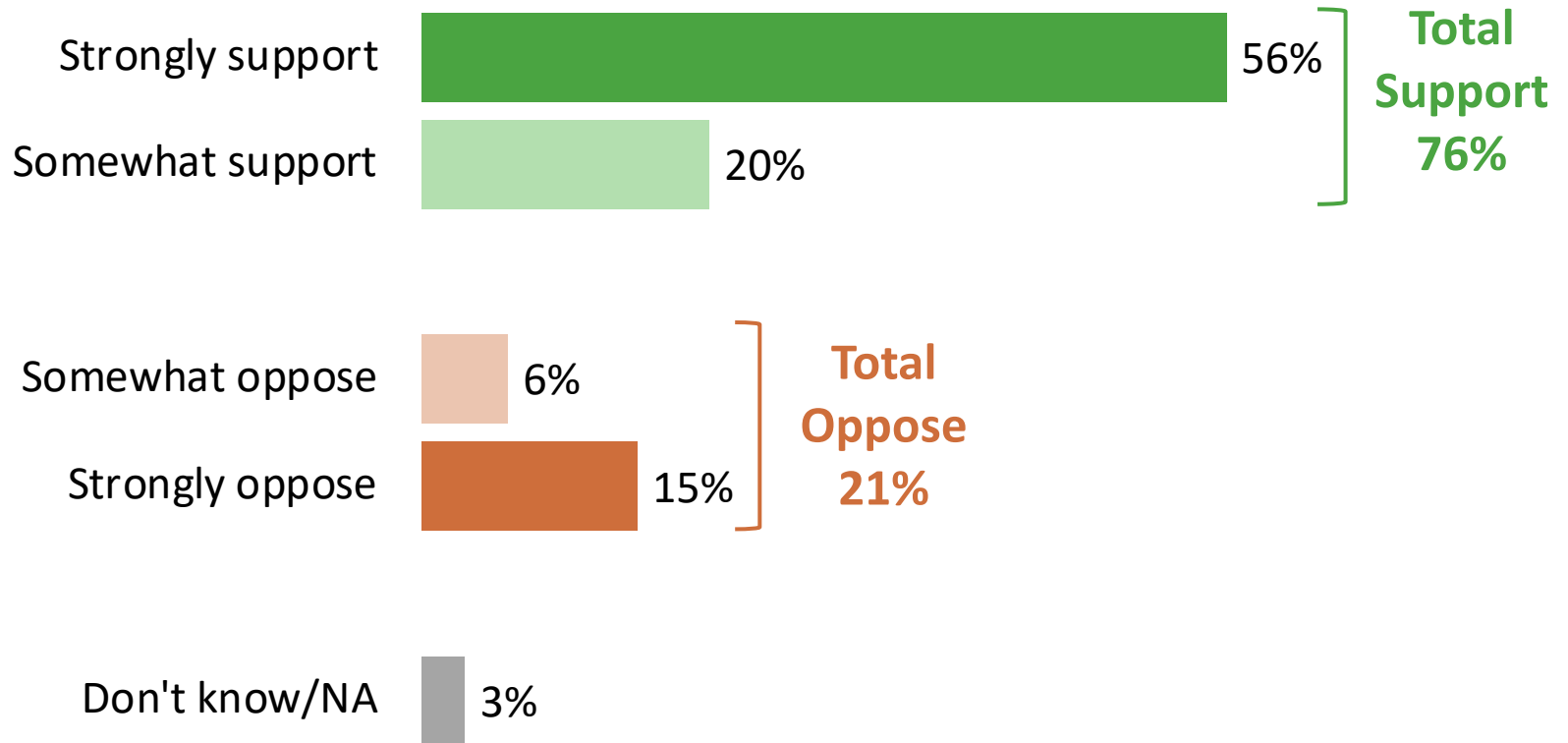
Voters first heard a brief description of a carbon pollution fee proposal.

The **FIRST/SECOND** policy is called a carbon pollution fee. It would limit the amount of carbon pollution released into the air, and require major polluters like oil, natural gas, and energy companies in New York State to pay a fee for each ton of carbon pollution they emit from their activities here. The revenue would fund:

- clean energy, like solar and wind;
- cleaner transportation options like public transit, and cleaner fuels;
- helping low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately impacted by pollution;
- ensuring our forests are healthy; preventing and cleaning up pollution from our rivers and lakes, and increasing sustainable supplies of drinking water.

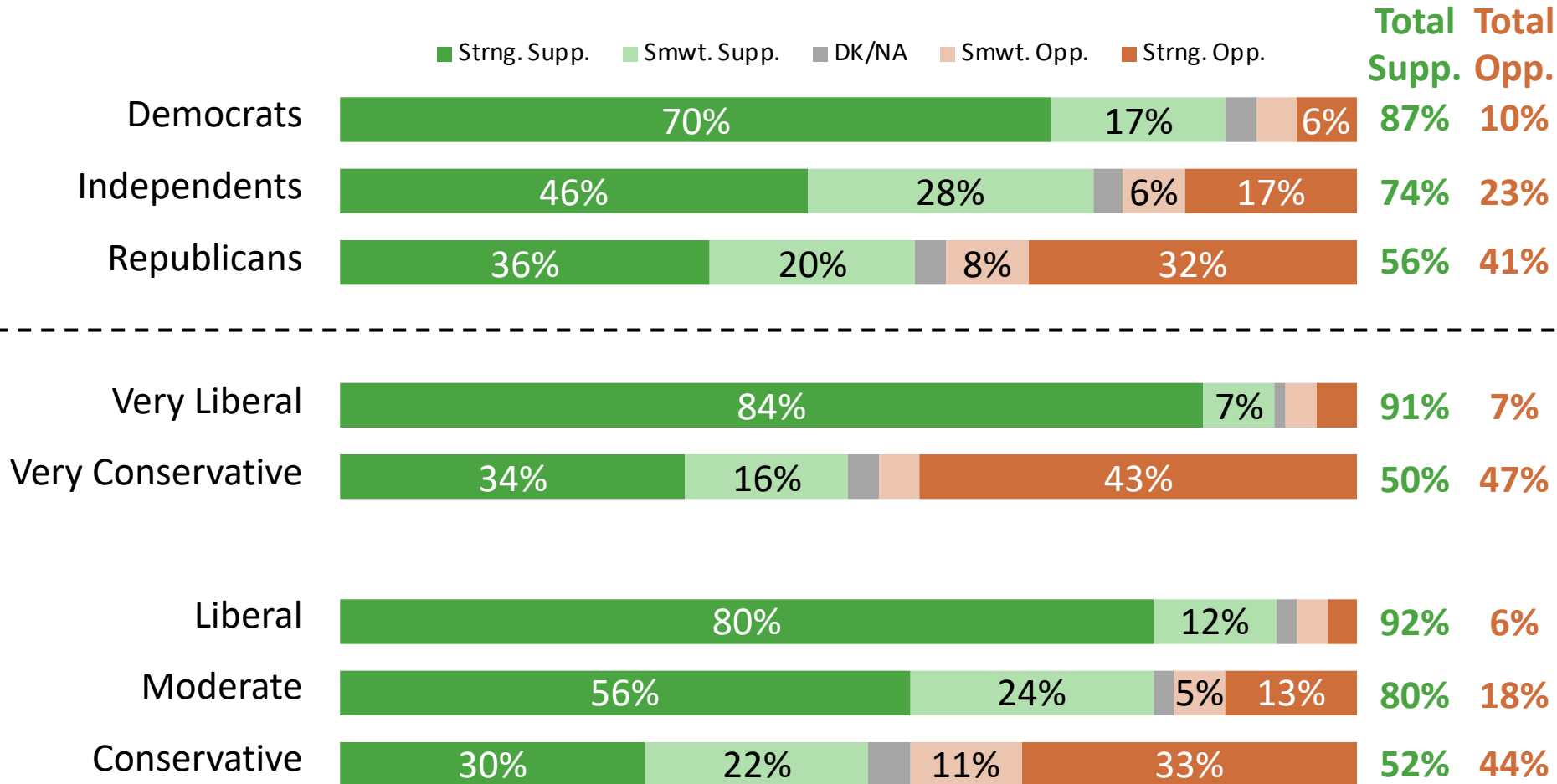
Three-quarters support the proposal, with more than half strongly in favor.

Does this proposed carbon pollution fee sound like something you would support or oppose?



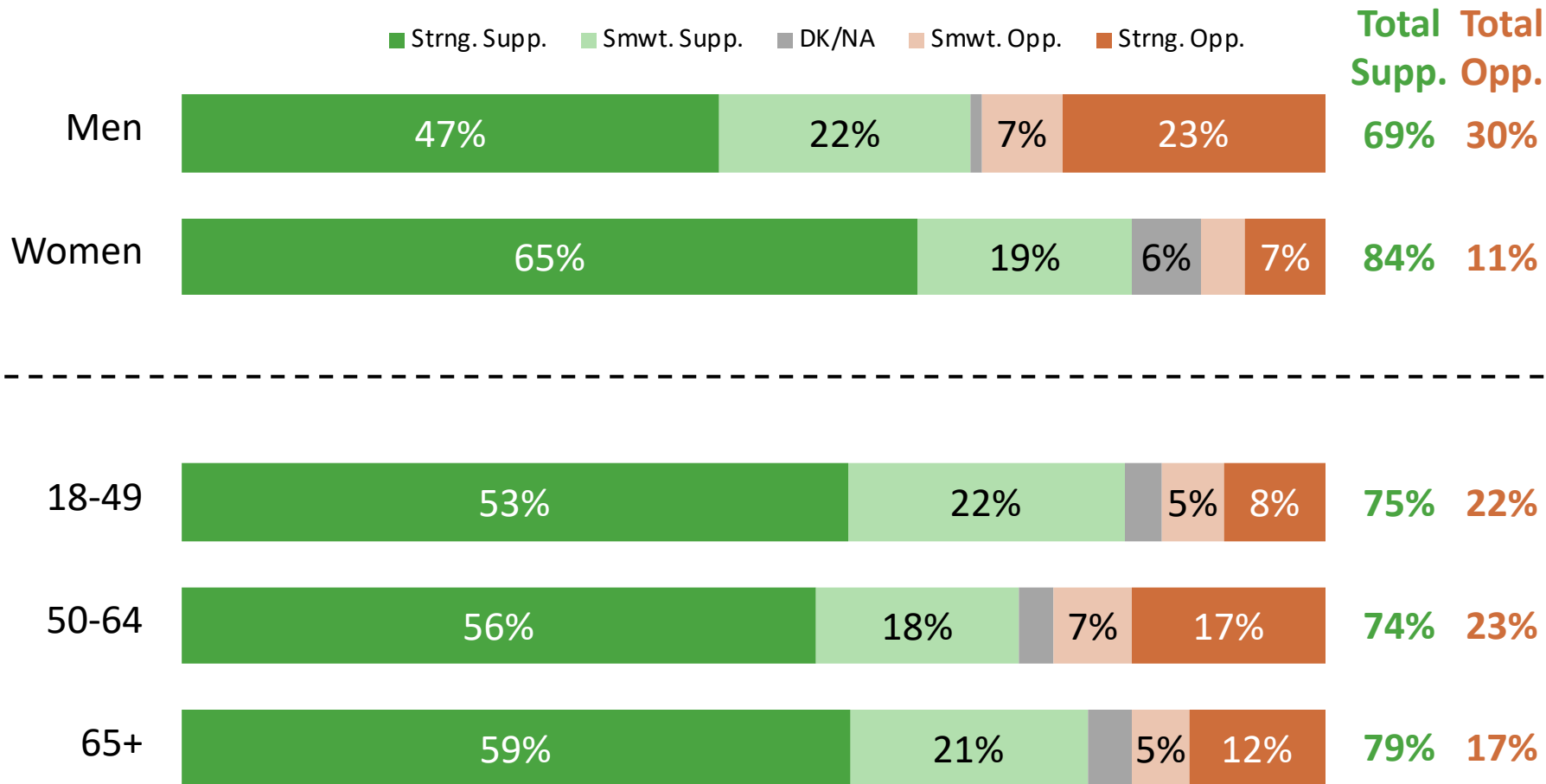
Both Republicans and conservatives support the proposal, as do nearly three-quarters of independent voters.

Initial Support for Carbon Pollution Fee By Party & Ideology



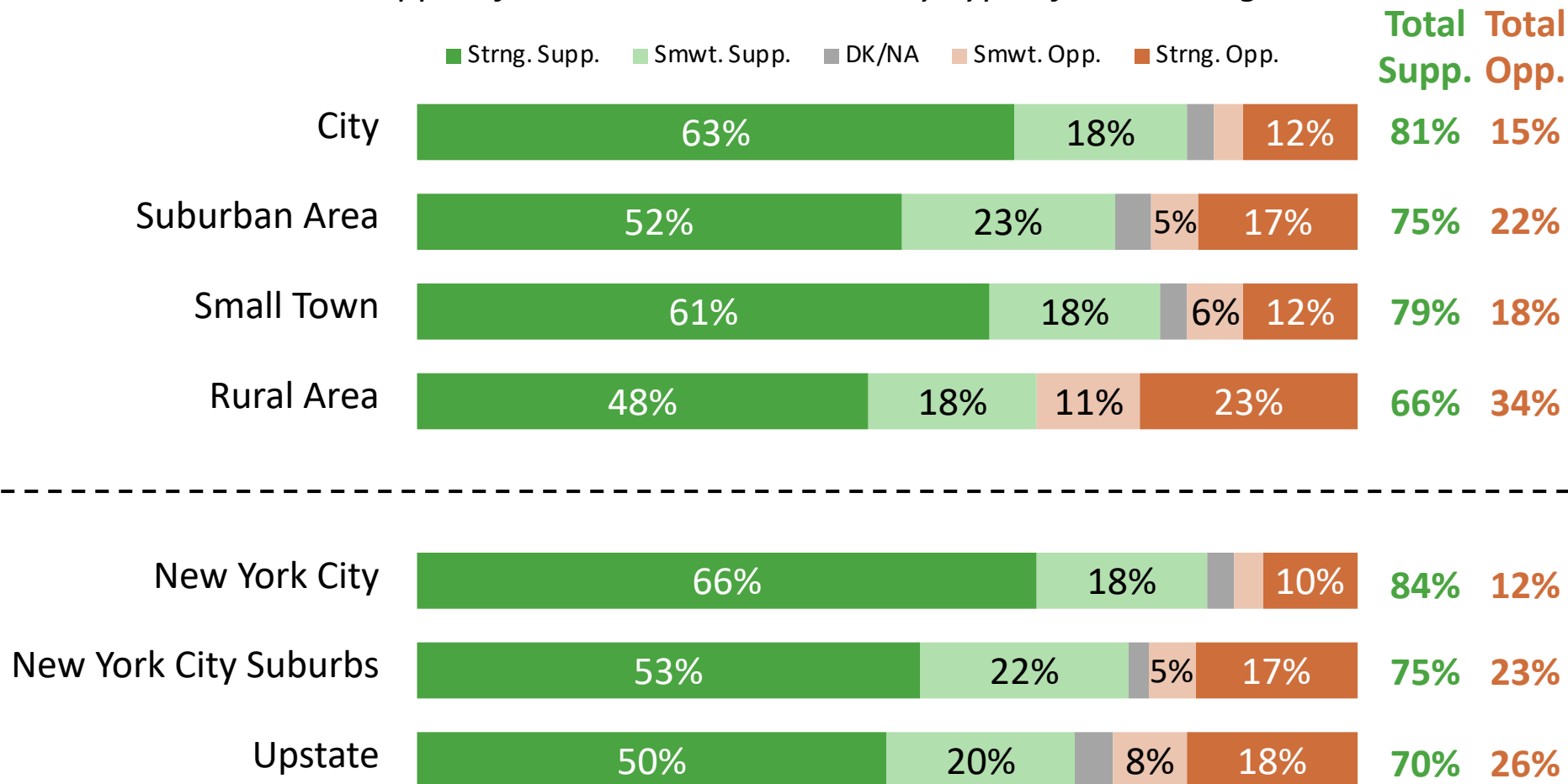
Women are especially strong supporters, though majorities back it regardless of gender or age.

Initial Support for Carbon Pollution Fee By Gender & Age



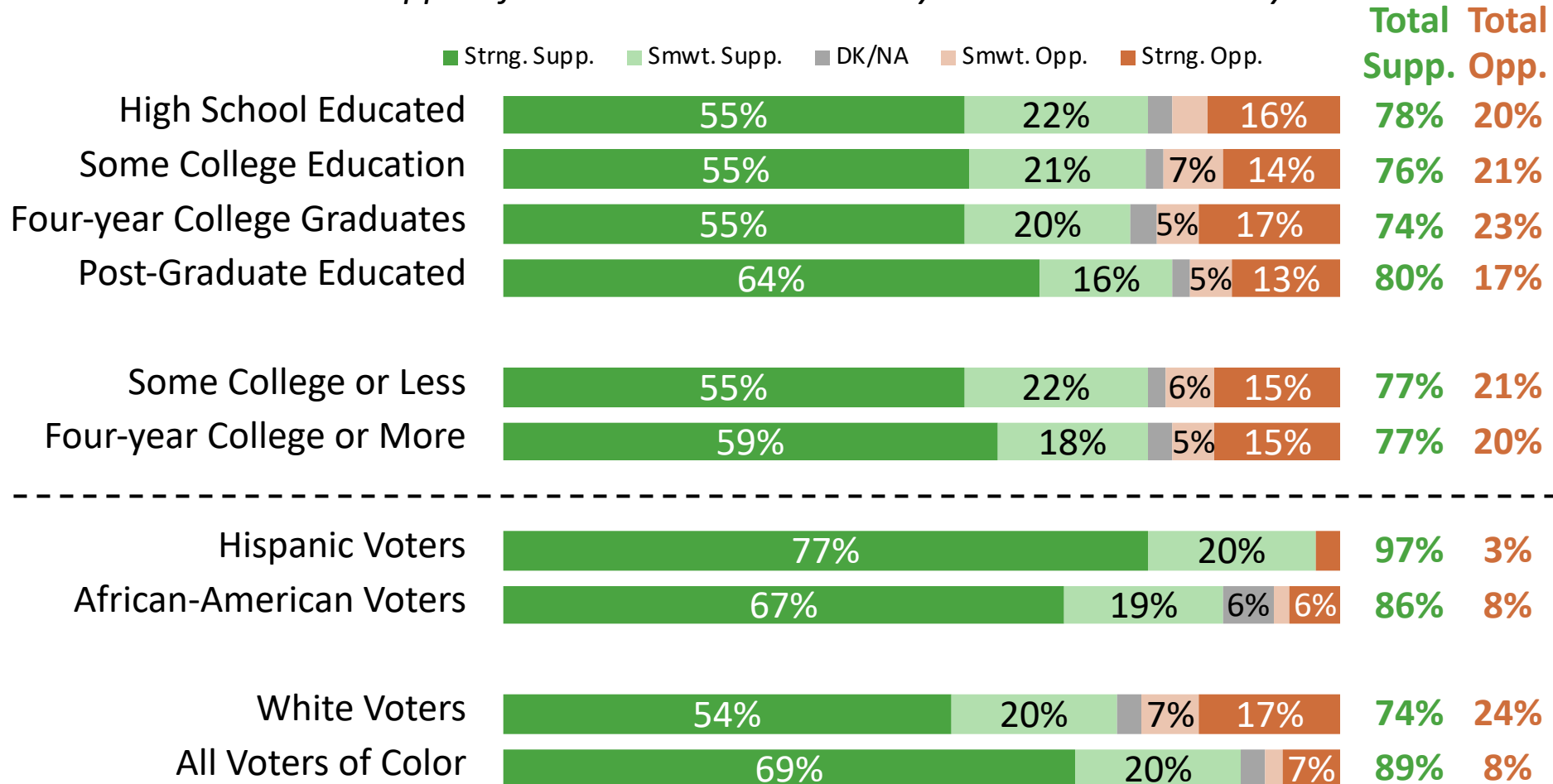
More than four in five New York City voters support it, as do two-thirds Upstate voters.

Initial Support for Carbon Pollution Fee By Type of Area & Region



Voters of color are a strong base of support for the carbon pollution fee proposal.

Initial Support for Carbon Pollution Fee By Education & Ethnicity





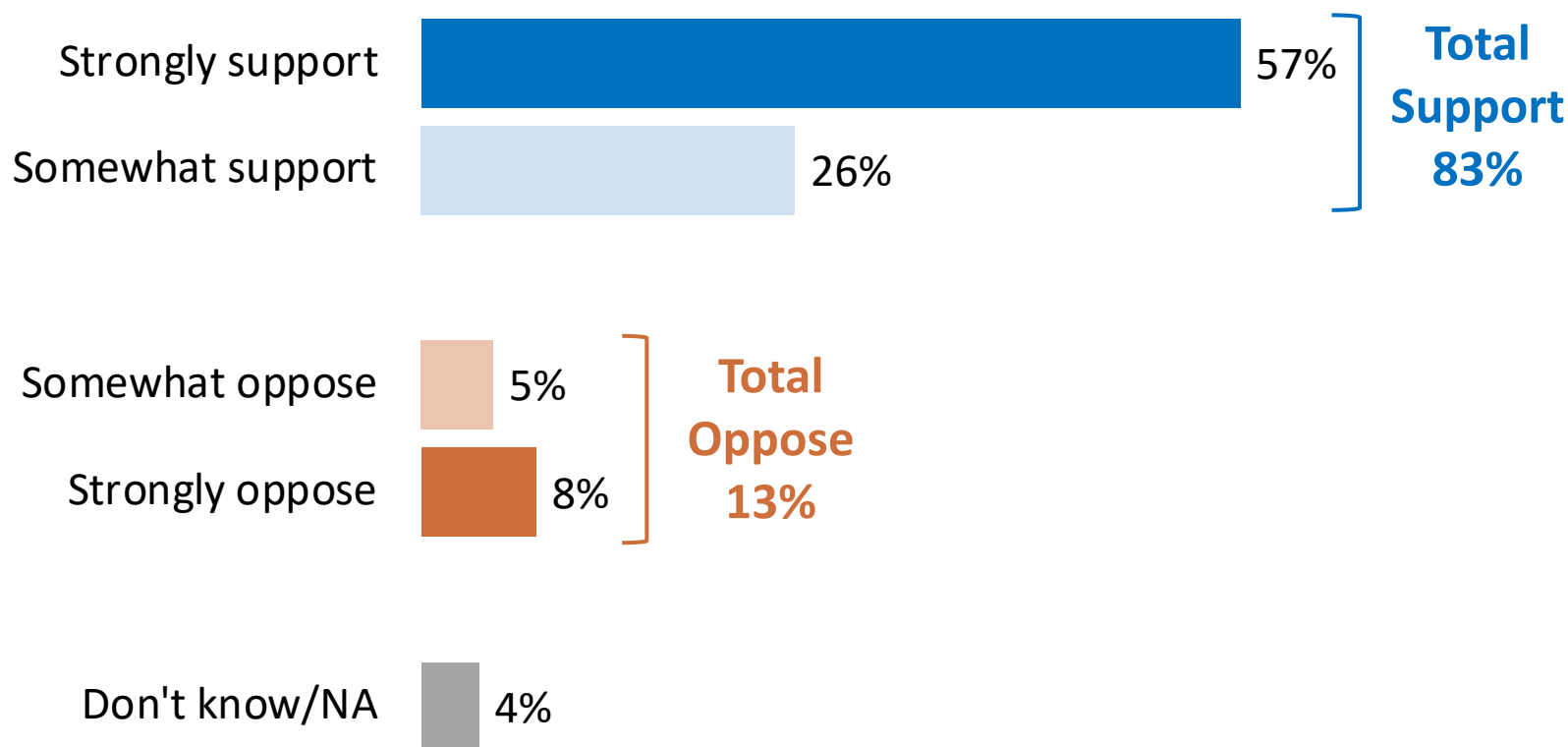
Opinions of a Clean Transportation Fund

Voters also heard a brief description of a clean transportation fund.

The **FIRST/SECOND** policy is called a clean transportation fund. The state of New York would invest in transportation choices that reduce pollution, including expanding public transportation and creating infrastructure for electric vehicles and safe ways for people to walk and bike, all across New York.

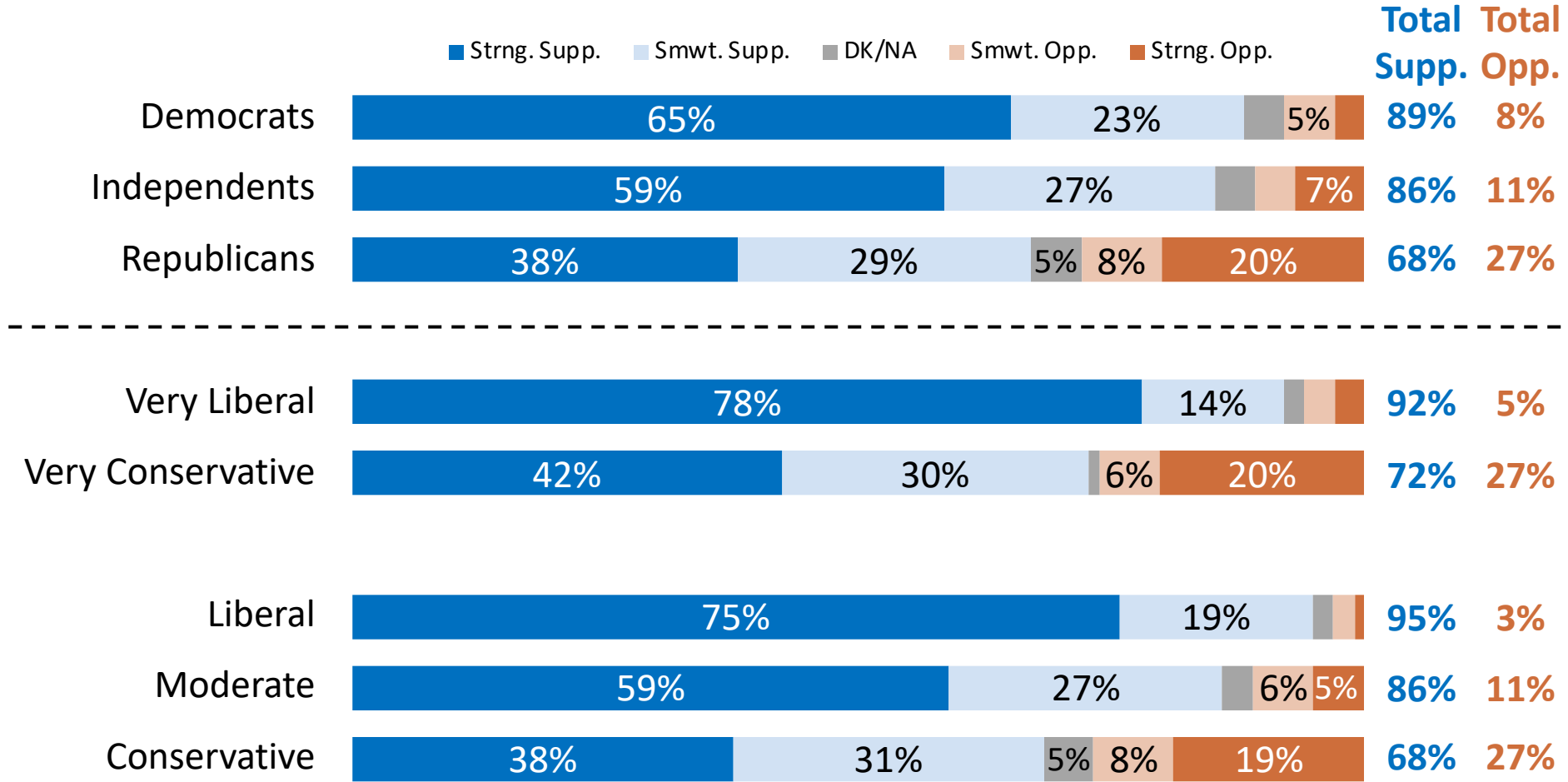
More than four in five support the proposal, nearly three in five strongly.

Does this proposal sound like something you would support or oppose?



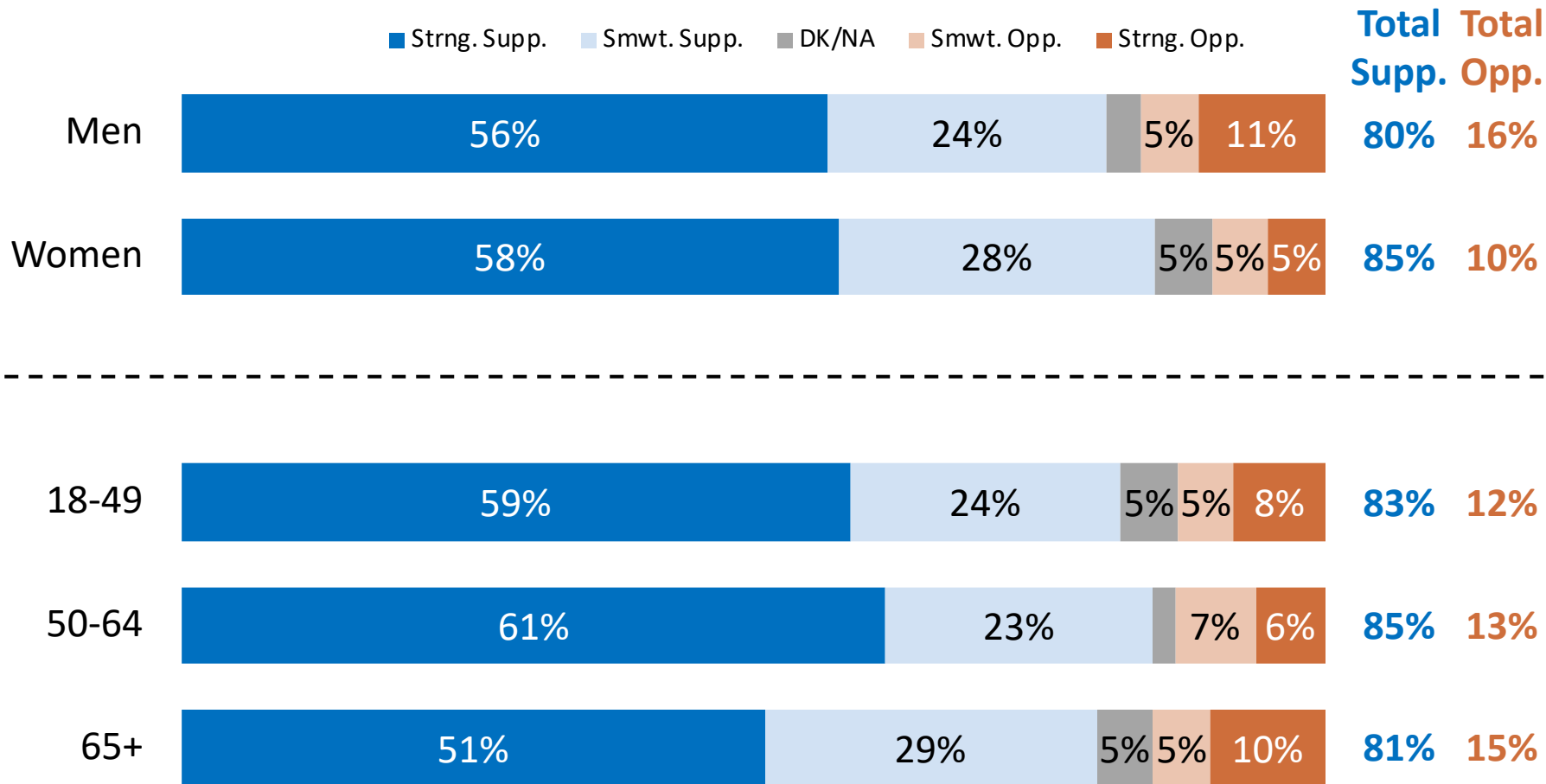
More than two-thirds of Republicans back the proposal, as do nearly nine in ten Democrats.

Initial Support for Clean Transportation Fund By Party & Ideology



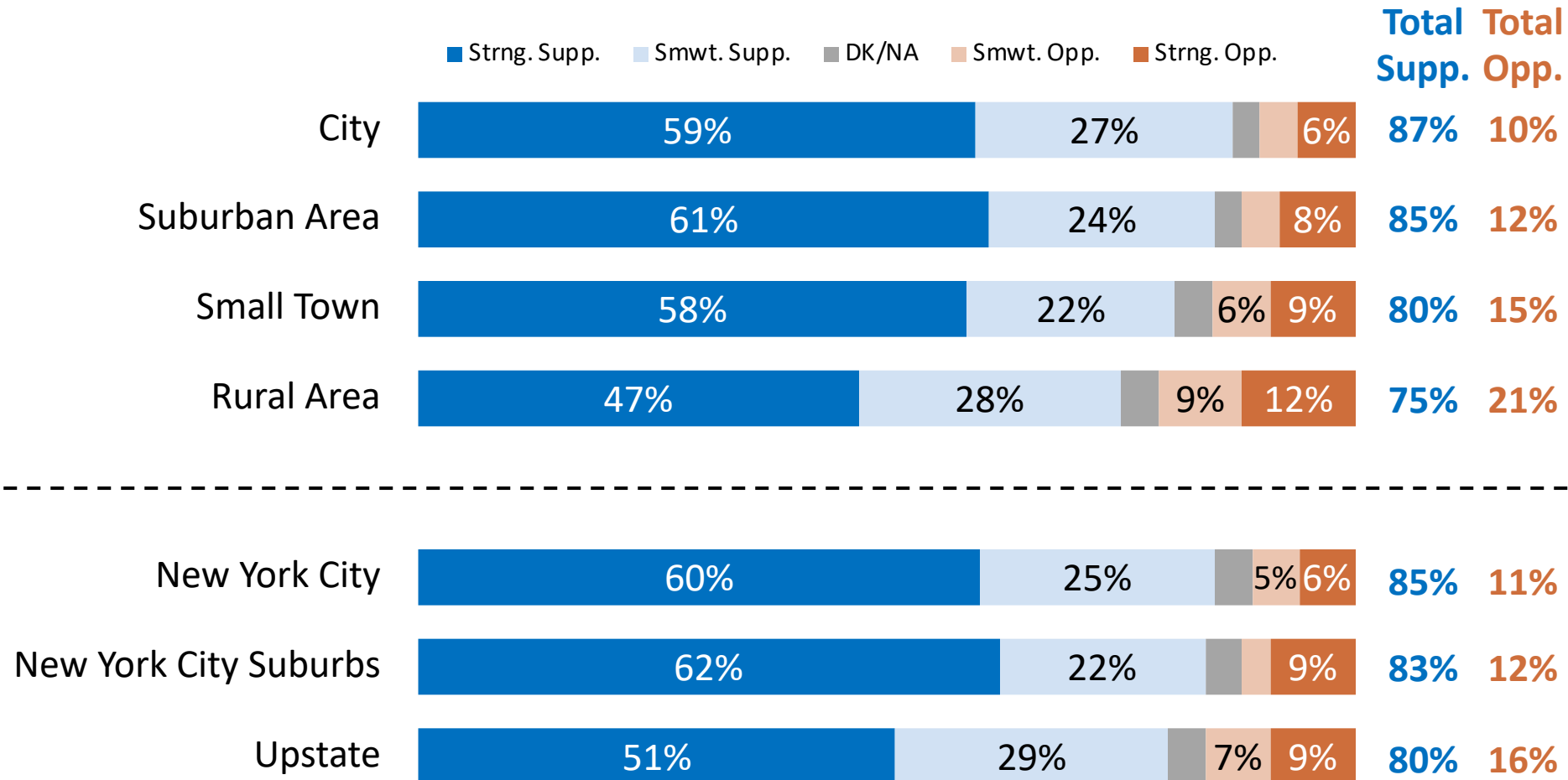
Support for the clean transportation fund is substantial across gender and age groups.

Initial Support for Clean Transportation Fund By Gender & Age



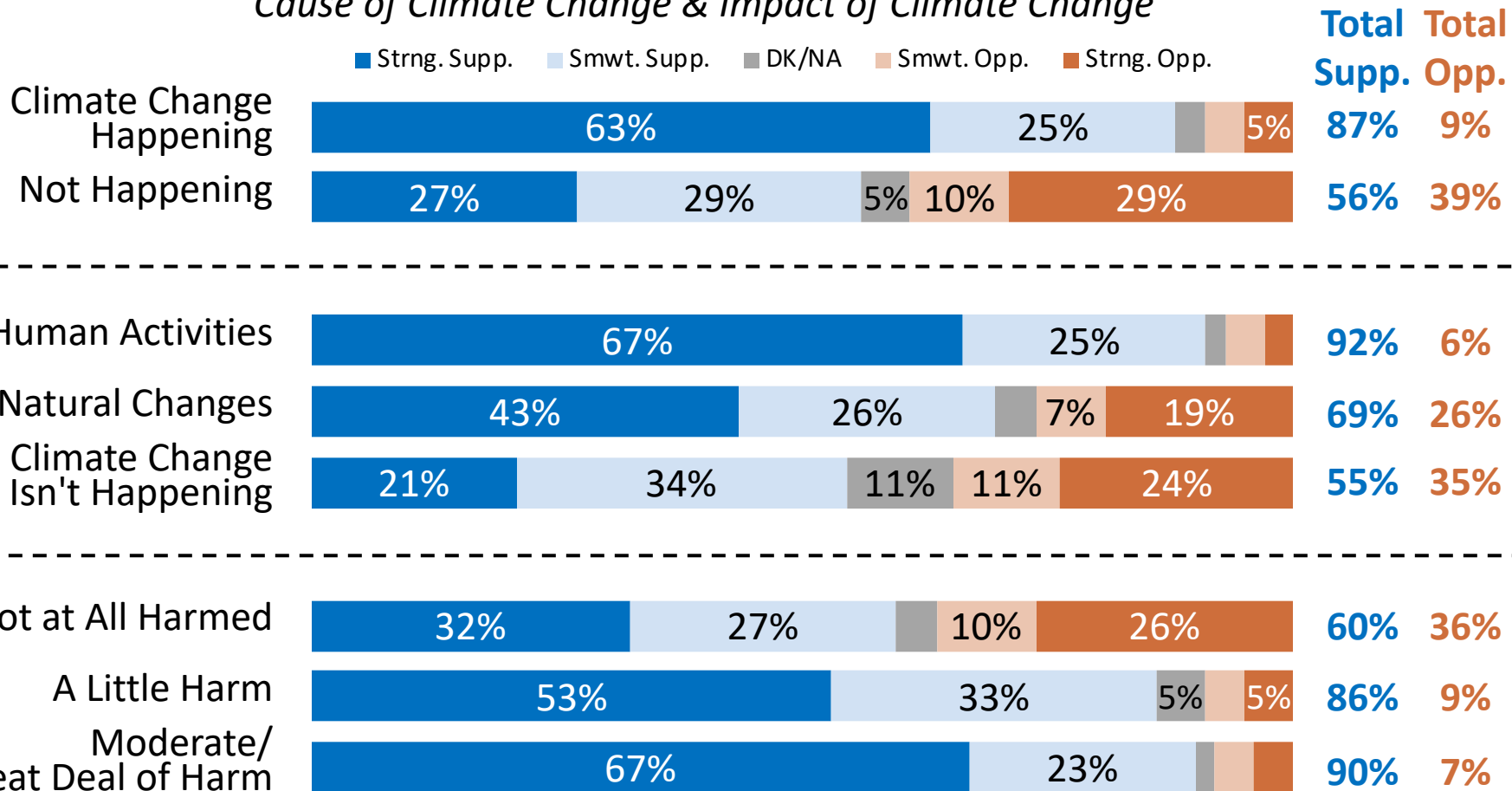
Urban voters offer slightly more support, but it is at least three-quarters everywhere.

Initial Support for Clean Transportation Fund By Type of Area & Region



Even a majority of those who think climate change isn't happening support the fund.

Initial Support for Clean Transportation Fund By Climate Change Happening, Cause of Climate Change & Impact of Climate Change





Investment Priorities and Willingness to Pay

Infrastructure repairs and natural area conservation are top priorities.

I am going to read you a list of potential ways funding raised by this (SPLIT SAMPLE A: carbon pollution fee) (SPLIT SAMPLE B: clean transportation fund) could be spent in New York State. Please tell me how important each of these potential uses is to you.

■ Ext. Impt. ■ Very Impt. ■ Smwt. Impt. ■ Not Impt. ■ DK/NA **Ext./Very Impt.**

Repairing and maintaining roads and bridges



90%

Repairing and upgrading roads and bridges so that they can better withstand the impacts of extreme weather



85%

Conserving natural areas like forests and wetlands that naturally remove carbon pollution from the air



82%

Protecting and restoring forests that provide natural filters to clean our air and water supplies



81%

Improving public health by reducing air pollution



77%

Increasing the use of clean energy, like wind and solar power



76%

Majorities also value clean energy investments and pollution reduction.

■ Ext. Impt. ■ Very Impt. ■ Smwt. Impt. ■ Not Impt. ■ DK/NA

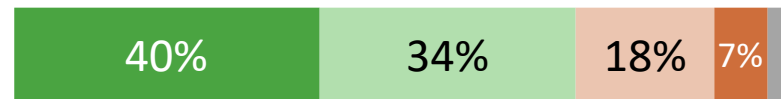
Ext./Very
Impt.

Reducing the pollution that causes climate change



75%

Creating jobs by building and installing solar panels, windmills, and clean energy technology



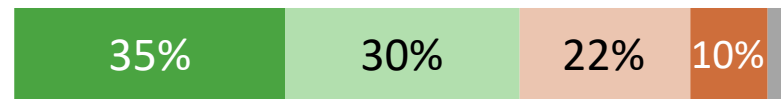
73%

Ensure that as New York transitions to using clean fuels for transportation and electricity, funds are made available to impacted communities for energy planning, job creation and reducing emissions



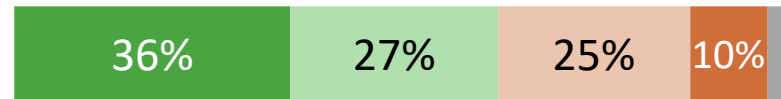
65%

Upgrading existing public transportation systems to use electricity rather than diesel or gas



64%

Installing one million additional solar panels statewide



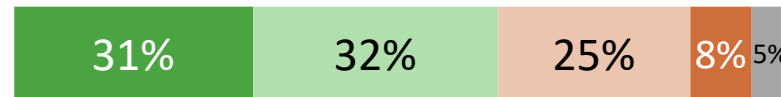
63%

Increasing the use of biofuels, which produce less pollution than gasoline



63%

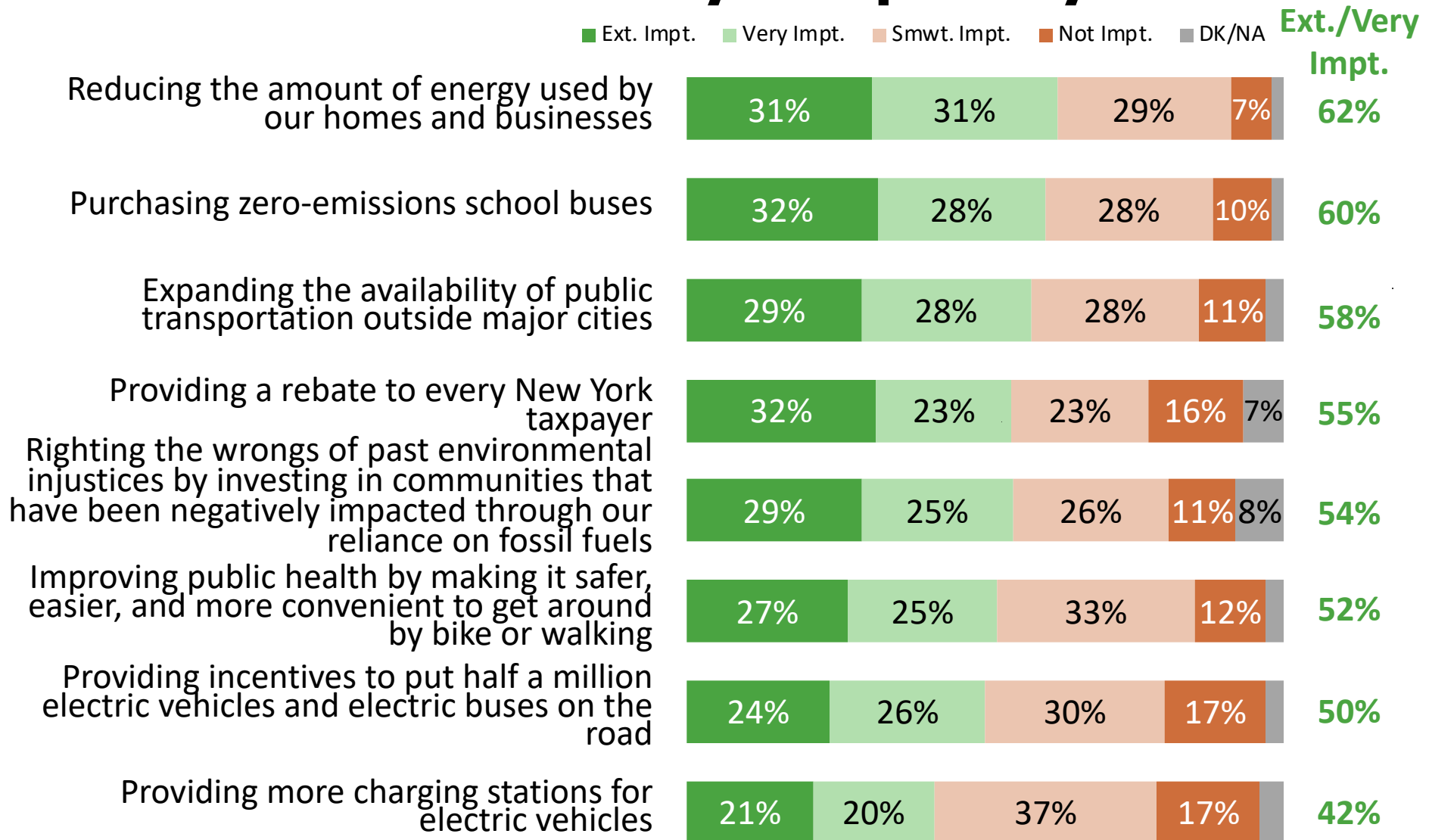
Saving residents money by reducing the gasoline they have to buy



63%

Q9. I am going to read you a list of potential ways funding raised by this (SPLIT SAMPLE A: carbon pollution fee) (SPLIT SAMPLE B: clean transportation fund) could be spent in New York State. Please tell me how important each of these potential uses is to you. Split Sample

Public funding of more EV stations is a relatively low priority.



There is a bit more appetite for upgrading public transportation in the context of a clean transportation fund.

(Extremely/Very Important)

Source of Energy	Carbon Pollution Fee	Clean Transportation Fund	Difference
Upgrading existing public transportation systems to use electricity rather than diesel or gas	61%	67%	+6%
Expanding the availability of public transportation outside major cities	55%	60%	+5%
Repairing and maintaining roads and bridges	88%	92%	+4%
Increasing the use of clean energy, like wind and solar power	74%	78%	+4%
Improving public health by making it safer, easier, and more convenient to get around by bike or walking	50%	54%	+4%
Ensure that as New York transitions to using clean fuels for transportation and electricity, funds are made available to impacted communities for energy planning, job creation and reducing emissions	63%	66%	+3%
Reducing the amount of energy used by our homes and businesses	61%	64%	+3%
Repairing and upgrading roads and bridges so that they can better withstand the impacts of extreme weather	84%	86%	+2%
Improving public health by reducing air pollution	76%	78%	+2%
Providing incentives to put half a million electric vehicles and electric buses on the road	50%	51%	+1%

They are more likely to favor reducing carbon pollution in the context of a carbon fee.

(Extremely/Very Important)

Source of Energy	Carbon Pollution Fee	Clean Transportation Fund	Difference
Saving residents money by reducing the gasoline they have to buy	63%	63%	0%
Providing a rebate to every New York taxpayer	55%	55%	0%
Installing one million additional solar panels statewide	63%	62%	-1%
Creating jobs by building and installing solar panels, windmills, and clean energy technology	74%	72%	-2%
Righting the wrongs of past environmental injustices by investing in communities that have been negatively impacted through our reliance on fossil fuels	56%	53%	-3%
Conserving natural areas like forests and wetlands that naturally remove carbon pollution from the air	84%	80%	-4%
Protecting and restoring forests that provide natural filters to clean our air and water supplies	83%	79%	-4%
Increasing the use of biofuels, which produce less pollution than gasoline	65%	61%	-4%
Providing more charging stations for electric vehicles	44%	39%	-5%
Reducing the pollution that causes climate change	79%	71%	-8%
Purchasing zero-emissions school buses	65%	56%	-9%

Q9 Split A & Split B. I am going to read you a list of potential ways funding raised by this (**SPLIT SAMPLE A:** carbon pollution fee) (**SPLIT SAMPLE B:** clean transportation fund) could be spent in New York State. Please tell me how important each of these potential uses is to you. Split Sample

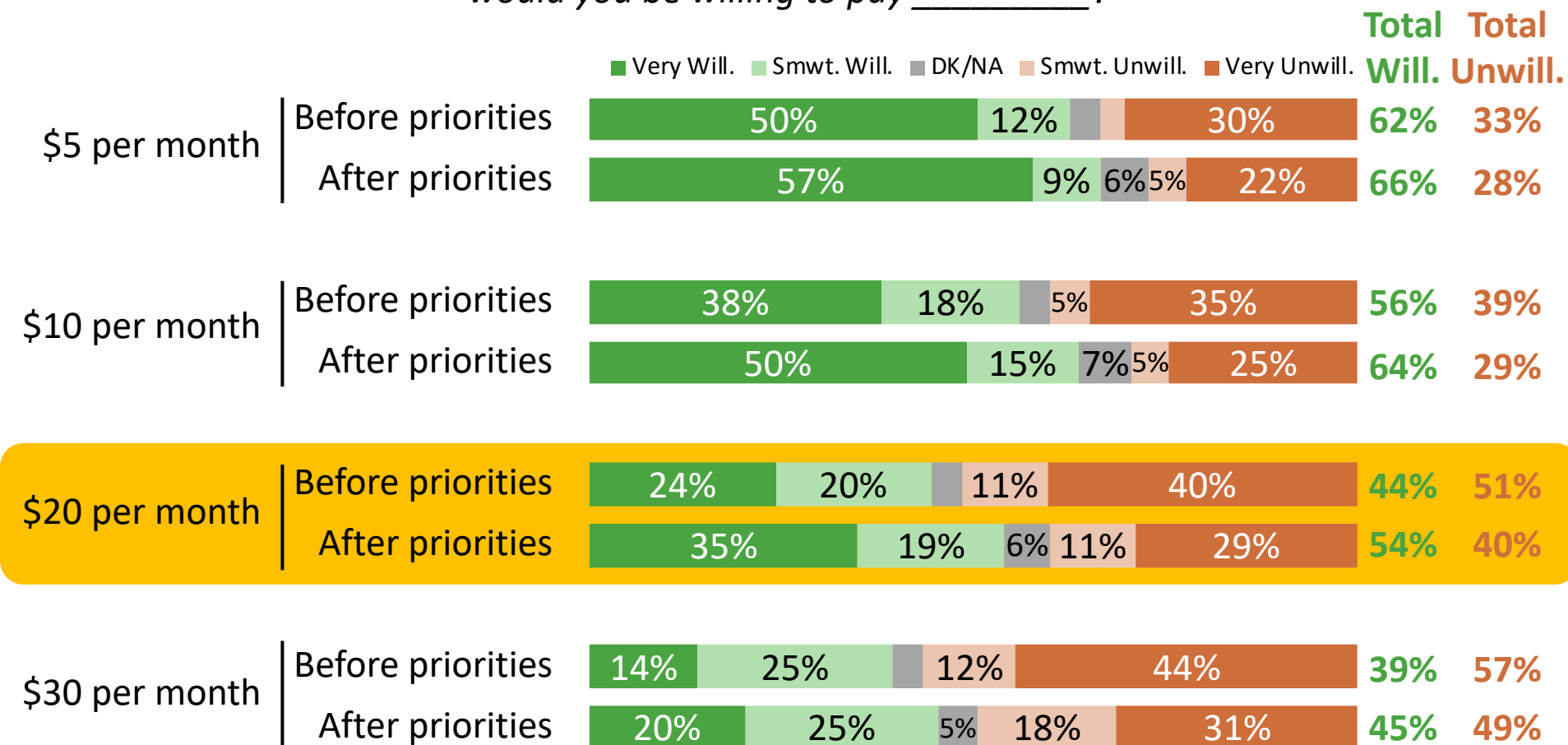


Willingness to Pay

- Voters were asked their willingness to pay the cost of these policies personally.
- Half were asked this before hearing about the various investments on the previous slides.
- The other half were asked after they had heard more about how the funding would be used.

Hearing about priorities for funding increases majority willingness to pay.

If some of the costs of such a policy were passed on to consumers, would you be willing to pay _____?





Conclusions

Conclusions

- ✓ New York voters understand that climate change is occurring, and most feel they will be harmed by it personally.
- ✓ Climate change is among their top concerns, along with the cost of healthcare taxes, and deteriorating infrastructure.
- ✓ More than three-quarters support the broad outlines of a carbon pollution fee that would invest in clean energy and transportation and land and water conservation, including majorities in every major demographic and geographic subgroup.
- ✓ A clean transportation fund to expand transportation choices is also very broadly popular – though a funding mechanism was not specified.
- ✓ Majorities say they would be more likely to support a legislator who backed either proposal, with another one-third saying it makes no difference.
- ✓ Voters are willing to pay up to \$10 additional per month to support either concept once they hear what it might fund. Their top-ranking projects include reducing air pollution, repairing infrastructure and conserving natural areas.

For more information, contact:



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